

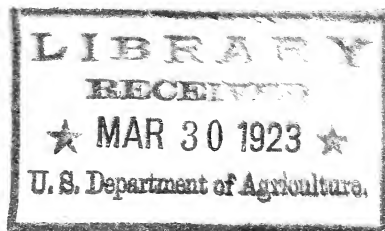
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1923

Dahliadale *Dahlias*



THE HEACOCK DAHLIA GARDEN
DENVER, COLORADO

THE DAHLIA, AN AMERICAN FLOWER

Being a native of the high lands of Mexico where the seasons are long, yet cool, the Dahlia will do its best in a similar climate. While the season in the Colorado mountains is not so long, the cool nights and sunny days with the aid of artificial watering seem to bring the Dahlia to perfect development. It is a plant that adapts itself to any climate or soil, but during the hotter days of summer in some parts of the country it refuses to bloom. If given plenty of water and the soil kept well cultivated a reward of an abundance of blossoms will be the result in the later and cooler months. There is no other flower which shows such a profusion of bloom, variety of color and massiveness of blossom. It is easily grown and comes into flower from eight to ten weeks after planting.

Descriptions— It is hard to describe colors in a printed catalog, but we have been very careful to get as accurate descriptions as possible. The heights given in this booklet are those to which the Dahlias grow in our garden. Soil and climatic conditions may cause this to vary in different localities, but the proportion of heights should remain the same.

Guarantee— Every bulb from our garden is guaranteed true to name and to be in perfect growing condition when delivered. We will cheerfully replace any that prove otherwise.

Terms— As we do only a retail business all orders should be accompanied by cash. Send money in the manner most convenient. Stamps are acceptable for orders amounting to less than \$1.00.

Instructions for Growing— Full instructions for the growing of Dahlias will be found in this book, but it should be remembered that the most necessary thing to produce good flowers or vegetables is to keep the ground cultivated and the plants in rapid growth.

Results— We always like to hear from our customers, as to their success or failure with Dahlias and we are never so busy but what we can answer all inquiries regarding this wonderful flower.

THE HEACOCK DAHLIA GARDEN

“DAHLIADALE”

2233 SOUTH LOGAN STREET

DENVER, COLORADO

The Garden is situated between South Logan and South Grant Streets on Warren Avenue, and is within three blocks of either the Englewood or University Park car lines. South Logan Street is Denver's main north and south boulevard.

CACTUS DAHLIAS

Cactus Dahlias are distinguished by their long, twisted or pointed petals. Some of the newer introductions in this class are very large and of magnificent color.



A CACTUS DAHLIA

and are of a most handsome delicate pink lavender color with white suffusion. This dahlia has the appearance of a huge lavender chrysanthemum. Tubers, each **\$1.50**

Gen. Rosalie Jones—

The flowers are a most beautiful pure yellow, always come perfect and are very full petaled and more refined than most large cactus dahlias. The stems are straight and stiff and of good length. An exceptionally good keeper. Our stock of this variety is very limited. Price, each..... **75c**

Geo. Walters—

Hybrid cactus of a lovely coloring, pinkish salmon, changing to a yellow base. The blossom is produced on good stems. The plant grows to be about four feet tall. Price, each **75c**

Golden West—

A wonderful California dahlia, free blooming on long stems. This, with its good keeping qualities, makes it an excellent cut flower variety. In color it is a golden yellow, and in form and size all that can be desired. Tubers, each **50c**

Countess of Lonsdale—

Very large and fine, flower of salmon-orange suffused with lavender. The delicate coloring of this dahlia, together with its fine keeping qualities make it one much sought for as a cut flower variety. Its habit of bloom is very free—the bushy plants being fairly covered with the attractive flowers. Its height is about four feet. Price, each..... **25c**

Edna Spencer—

One of the best narrow petaled varieties; the large flowers are produced on strong stems

Kalif— A truly majestic flower, frequently measuring over nine inches in diameter, of perfect cactus form, in color a pure scarlet. The habit of the plant is all that can be desired, growing to about five feet high, making it a most effect and useful variety for garden decoration as well as for cutting. Price, each **50c**

La Favorita— Awarded first prize for a vase of 12 blooms at the Oakland Dahlia show in 1918, and first prize for a vase of the best established dahlias, California origin, at the Palace Hotel show. A beautiful brilliant salmon; shading from a dark reddish salmon in the center to salmon-pink at the twisted points. Form perfect, showing a full center even late in the season. Each bloom carried on a strong stem. A first-class cut flower variety, which without any doubt will take its place alongside the very best dahlias of recent introduction **\$1.50**

Mrs. W. E. Estes— A very fine, new, snow white dahlia of much merit. Broad and long pointed petals, forming a flower of great size borne aloft on long stems. Blooms profusely and will not burn in the sunshine. Absolutely the best white dahlia of any class yet introduced. Price **\$1.50**

Nibelungenhort— Another gigantic flower of great value, both for exhibition and garden purposes. In color, a very beautiful shade of old rose, with a blending of salmon-pink and golden-apricot. The flowers often measure eight inches in diameter **75c**

Peirrot— An English dahlia of unique and striking variety, the color being amber, boldly tipped pure white. The plants are of bushy growth and the flowers large, with long stems. Its odd color makes it a very desirable dahlia for any collection. Tubers each **50c**

Schwan— Pure white with long and narrow petals, the end of each being slightly notched. Very free bloomer. This is one of the best white cactus dahlias. Height four feet. Price..... **25c**

Sulphurea— Blossom of clear sulphur yellow, and petals whorled, giving it a very attractive appearance. It is very similar in appearance to Comstock but smaller in size and lighter color. A very free bloomer and every flower has a good stem **50c**

Tom Lundy— The bold crimson flower is very large and full to the center. This is a dahlia which grows best in a heavy soil and in the full sunshine. The excellent stem grows well above the foliage; a free bloomer. This dahlia was introduced in 1915 and has become a California favorite. Height 5 to 6 feet. Price each..... **75c**

DECORATIVE DAHLIAS

Decorative Dahlias include the loose-flowering varieties which are full, or nearly full to the center with broad nearly flat petals.

American Beauty— A crimson of unusual beauty and large size. This free-blooming dahlia grows to a height of 4 feet and should be in every collection. We have a good supply of these tubers and the price is..... **25¢**

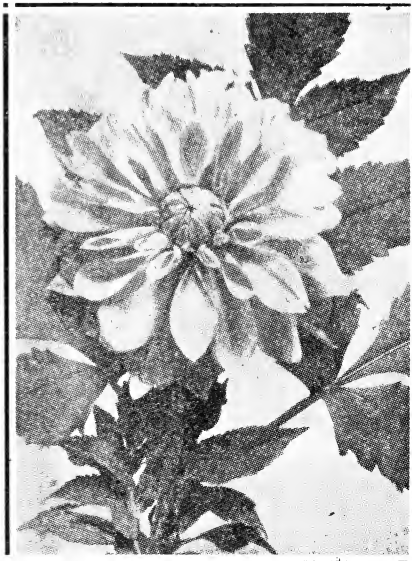
Amphion— An English decorative, large flower with rather waved and pointed petals. Color is pink suffused heliotrope, giving it a clear lavender appearance. The plants are strong and grow about six feet high. Each..... **50c**

Breeze Lawn— This dahlia still proves to be the most popular of all varieties in our garden, outselling every other variety, and being in the biggest demand for cut flowers. Its one fault—short stems—is overcome by its wonderful free-blooming habit. By disbudding larger flowers are obtained and stems long enough for bouquets can be cut without destroying buds. The color is the richest, brightest red yet obtained in any dahlia and its size has not been equalled by any other of the decorative type. The demand for Breeze Lawn is always greater than the supply. Height, 4 feet. Each. **75c**

Carmencita— One of Bessie Boston's California wonders. She says of it: "The most graceful and beautiful of the new decoratives. The yellow blossom is regularly striped red. The plant is a dwarf grower but forms a fine compact bush which is a mass of flowers all season. The formation of the enormous flower is uncommon and graceful. The stems are all to be desired and no blossom will last longer when cut." **\$1.50**

Comstock— Another Bessie Boston variety which produced the largest yellow flower in our garden. The petals are slightly fluted, forming a beautiful flower of great substance. The long straight stem is excellent and the flower is fine for cutting. An immense yellow..... **\$1.50**

Copper— This is one of the best late California introductions, a marvel of beauty. An immense flower with very unique coloring: copper, shaded and tinted with bronze and apricot, with a suggestion of salmon pink. The petals are broad, fluffy and twisted, giving a full deep effect. The plant grows very tall and is always loaded with large blossoms on long stems. Even though a profuse bloomer it never produces inferior flowers. Price, each..... **50c**

**DELICE.****Delice—**

A large dahlia of beautiful form and splendid size. It is an exquisite glowing rose pink, a soft yet brilliant color; one of the most beautiful we know. Height of plant is about four feet. Each.. **25¢**

D. M. Moore—

An enormous flower of deep crimson maroon, shading almost to black; a very attractive variety when planted among the lighter colors. Fine stems but low plant. Each **25¢**

Dr. Tevis—

A magnificent blossom of a blend of copper, old rose, and old gold. Immense flowers with the best possible stems. This dahlia has attracted the greatest attention when-

ever exhibited. The plant is a vigorous and sturdy grower, and a heavy producer of blossoms. It grows to be about six feet tall for us. Price, each..... **50¢**

Dream— A lovely color of peculiar pink, more the color of "peaches and cream." It's long stem and pretty color make it a favorite for cut flowers. Each **50¢**

Eleanor Stisser— Flowers are very large and full. A strong and healthy plant bearing large flowers of a buff color, shading to pink and old rose. Plants grow to about six feet in height. Price..... **25¢**

Flamingo— An ideal variety for cutting by reason of its fine stems and the clear rich color of its blossoms—bright shell pink. Height about four feet. Price..... **25¢**

F. Grinsted— A yellow striped and splashed red, sometimes coming in a solid red which makes a beautiful flower. The blossom is nicely formed, of good substance and the stems are 10 to 12 inches long. Plants thrifty. Tubers, each..... **50¢**

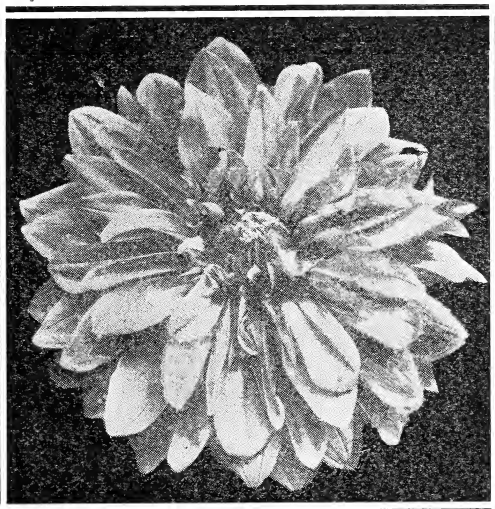
Golden West—

Clear, bright canary yellow flowers are from five to six inches in diameter, are very double and they never show an open center. Height about four feet. Price ... **25c**

Grand Duke

Alexis—

A dahlia of a most beautiful shape and coloring. The size is very large and the form is perfect, each petal being tightly curled. The color is pure white with the tip of each petal touched with lavender. A dahlia much admired by those who like flowers of delicate tints. The plant is strong and healthy growing from five to six feet high. Price, each..... **25c**



DR. TEVIS

Henry Maier— A true yellow decorative, very often called the yellow Mina Burgle. Profuse bloomer, throwing flowers on long stiff stems well above the foliage. The flowers are large and excellent as a cut flower. Price each.. **50c**

Hortulanus Witte— A very large, long stemmed, free-flowering white; a splendid cut flower and exhibition variety. The habit of the plant is rather low-growing, but is always loaded with the pure white blossoms. Each.. **50c**

Immense— Here is one of our finest variegated dahlias of the lighter shades. A pure crimson lake overlaying white; the blossoms are very large and the stems long and straight; plant grows to height of about four feet. Price..... **50c**

J. M. Goodrich— A giant free-flowering decorative dahlia borne on long, stiff stems; the color is a beautiful salmon pink, each petal effectively tipped with primrose yellow; a decided novelty, height 4 feet. Each..... **25c**



Jane Selby— The flowers are of gigantic size and are perfect in shape; coming full to the center, and being of true Decorative type. In color, a beautiful mauve pink; a live, but delicate shade, that wins instant favor. The stem is exceptionally good, being long and stiff and the flowers are produced well above the foliage. We can highly recommend this for cut flower purposes and for keenest competition. Each. **50c**

John Lewis Childs— The best fancy of any type. A California variety introduced by Bessie Boston, whose description is: "Picture a yellow, suffused, splashed and striped with brilliant scarlet and generally tipped white and you have this new decorative. All fancy or bi-colored dahlias occasionally have flowers of solid color. In this case the red blossom is tipped white. The size is immense, the stem is stiff, and no dahlia bloomed more frequently or lasted longer when cut. A prize-winner."..... **\$2.50**

King of Autumn— One of the best dahlias of the autumn shades. A wonderful bloomer with nicely formed flowers on long stems. While the blossoms are not large it is one of the most popular dahlias we grow and its flowers are always in demand. Tubers, each..... **75c**

Le Grande Manitou—

Ground color pale pink, striped, spotted, blotched with deep reddish violet. Borne on stout, stiff stems. Sometimes the flowers come in a solid color which is a beautiful deep violet. See illustration on this page. If you do not grow this wonderful dahlia now you should secure it at once. Price, each **25c**

Loveliness—

A most wonderful free-blooming dahlia of a bright pink color. The plants grow tall and are of the finest for yard decoration as well as a grand cut flower variety. One of the best bloomers we have..... **25c**



Moonbeam— An immense flower, held well up on excellent stems. Color, a clear canary yellow—one of the very best; a sturdy grower and blooms very freely; an excellent keeper when cut. Height 3 feet. Price..... **25c**

Mons. Capron— A strong, vigorous grower bearing large flowers of old rose, mottled dark rose pink, a good keeper with long stems. Height about four feet. Price, each **35c**

Mrs. E. C. Boston— The best white decorative dahlia, for it is good in any climate; does not burn in sunshine. Large, regularly formed flower of great depth which holds its center until the end of the season. Best white dahlia for any purpose. Price, each **\$1.00**

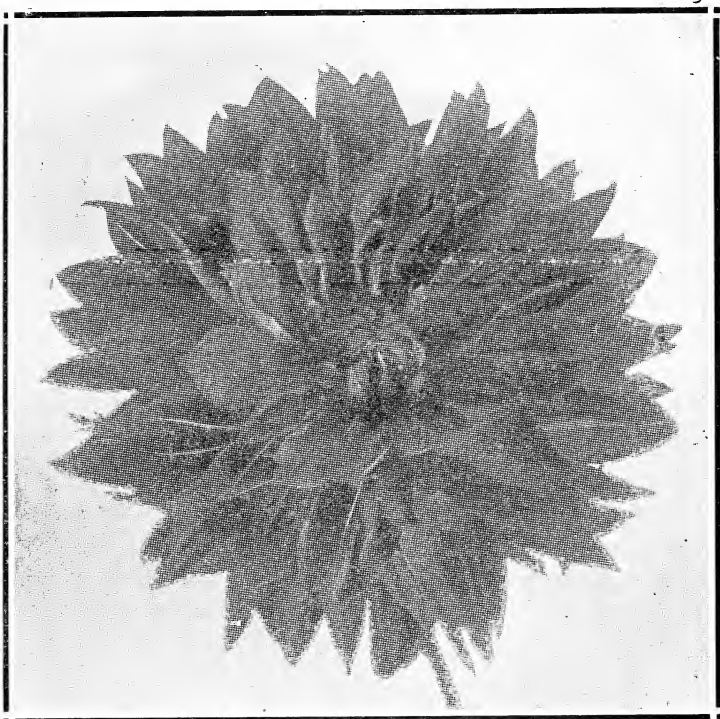
Mme. Lumiere— An attractive variety on account of the beautiful white and violet-red blossoms. Each petal is pure white with the tip deeply covered with violet, as though carefully painted by an artist. The plant grows four to five feet high and is free blooming. Price..... **25c**

Mt. Hood — The flowers are of good size and perfectly double and are borne freely on strong stems. Its clear, snow-white color and many other good points are bound to make this a popular sort. Height five feet. Price..... **50c**

Mrs. I. Devere Warner— A Marean dahlia of great merit. Color a soft orchid shade of mauve pink and the blossoms are large and deep. The plant is strong and vigorous and a very free bloomer. for one producing such large flowers. This dahlia was introduced in 1921 and stock is very scarce and hard to procure. Tubers, each **\$7.50**

The Millionaire— This remarkable mammoth decorative dahlia exceeds any other dahlia in existence in size. The color is a most dainty lavender with a pink sheen overcast. The flower is simply immense, very deep and heavy. The Millionaire has won many first prizes, besides many medals, all over this country for the largest flower in the show. A dahlia garden is not complete without a Millionaire. Price, each **\$1.50**

Mary C. Burns— This is a sensational dahlia which will immediately arrest attention because of its extraordinary coloring. The outside of the petals are old gold and the reverse a dull red. This combination of red and gold is absolutely new. Stem is admirable, and it is a wonderful free bloomer. The size is enormous but the coloring is what makes its blossom so unique. Price, each..... **\$2.50**



MINA BURGLE

Mina Burgle— Another California beauty that is a champion variety. It produces flowers of gigantic size and remarkable beauty. It is the best of its color—a glowing and brilliant scarlet. The flowers are of perfect decorative type and borne on long and wiry stems well above the foliage. This dahlia is very prettily formed and is one of the best red for cut flowers. Notice in the above illustration the shape of the petals and their arrangement. Plant is strong and healthy, growing about five feet tall. Price..... **50¢**

Ora Dow— A beautiful velvety maroon, effectively tipped white. This is a very strong plant, often reaching the height of six or even seven feet for us; the stems are long and straight, but the foliage is scant. Each..... **25¢**

Professor Mansfield— One of the older dahlias, but still a favorite on account of its peculiar coloring, it being a rich yellow with white tips and red center. The flowers are very large and plant bushy. Price, each.. **25c**

Purple Manitou— Good purples are hard to find, as most of the dahlias listed as purple have very little of that shade in them. Here is one that will not disappoint. It is a true solid purple, large and beautiful. The stems are good, the plant strong and a free bloomer. It is the very best purple decorative grown. Price **25c**

Queen Mary— Silvery pink; large flower and long stems. A great favorite where a delicate color is wanted. This flower is used for house decoration and weddings more than any other variety we raise. Height 3 feet. A beauty and queen of the light pinks. Price..... **25c**

Sunshine— A strong, sturdy plant, always loaded with blossoms of scarlet and gold—the colors which make “Geisha” so popular. Sunshine is a long petaled decorative with good stems and large blossoms. Tubers, each **\$1.50**

Theodore Vail— A color much in demand—old gold shading to apricot. The stem is long and straight and the blossom borne well above the foliage, making it an admirable cut flower. A Bessie Boston dahlia..... **\$1.00**

Thesee— One of the tallest, strongest and most stately varieties grown—one that produces broad, flat flowers that are held rigidly upright on long stout stems; it is one of the best, a glowing crimson full of brightness. Height 6 to 7 feet. Each..... **25c**

W. W. Rawson— Pure white, overlaid with amethyst-blue. The big flowers are similar to Grand Duke Alexis in coloring, but of larger size. Price, each..... **25c**

Yellow le Colosse— Color is a very bright yellow; stem is straight and strong, and flowers are exceptionally large and perfect in form. Each..... **25c**

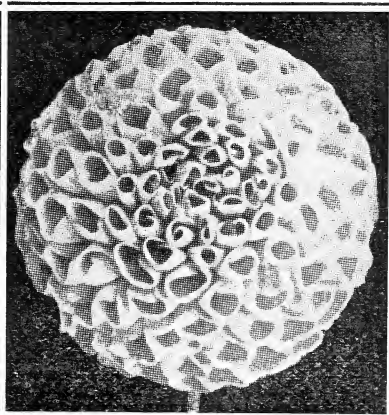
Goodland, Kans., Sept. 21, '22.

Mr. Guy R. Heacock, The Heacock Dahlia Gardens, Denver, Colo.—Sir: I purchased half a dozen dahlia bulbs from you last fall and I have some of the most beautiful dahlias this summer I have ever seen. Am making my selection of 24 named varieties from your 1922 catalogue for spring shipment.

Yours Respectfully,
Mrs. G. E. Fike.

SHOW DAHLIAS

Show Dahlias apply to those varieties producing large, round, quill-petaled, well-formed flowers, showing only solid colors, but many frequently have shaded tips.



A. D. LAVONI.

Acquisition—

Rich, royal, deep mauve, a splendid exhibition variety with a long stem..... **25c**

A. D. Lavoni—

One of the best pink show dahlias grown. A flower of most beautiful shape and a deep pink color; the stem is long and the plant produces abundantly. Each **25c**

Bonnie Blue—

The nearest to a blue dahlia we have ever raised. A free bloomer with good stems. Each **50c**

Cream of the Valley—

of our largest show dahlias; with its long stem and delicate color it is a favorite for cut flowers..... **25c**

Dr. I. B. Perkins—

An ideal white show dahlia with long stems and large flowers. Excellent for both cutting and garden decoration. Plant grows to be about four feet high. Price, each..... **25c**

General Miles—

The very best variegated show dahlia in existence. The blossoms are enormous, borne on long stems. The colors are light violet, striped and splashed with purplish magenta. A wonderful dahlia. Price, each..... **75c**

Gloire de Lyon—

An old favorite and a good one for cut flowers, as it is a good keeper and has long stems. Pure white, round as a ball and full to the center. Large flower and free bloomer. Price, each..... **25c**

Geo. W. Gero— A seedling of the popular Grand Duke Alexis, which it resembles closely in form, only the flower is a little more densely quilled. A rank, healthy grower, producing a wealth of large perfectly formed flowers on long stems. Color, clear rich pink. A fine cutting variety. Each. **50c**

King of Shows— Deep butter yellow of a solid color throughout. Every petal is most perfectly quilled and uniquely formed. A mammoth flower, on long stems. It is without doubt the finest show dahlia ever grown and should be seen to be appreciated **\$1.50**

Rose— One of the largest and finest of the new show dahlias. Color is a deep rose shade; will not fade in the hottest weather; extra long stems. An exceptionally fine cut flower; will become as popular as Delice for all purposes. Each..... **25¢**

Stradella— One of the best of the reddish-purple kinds. Long stems hold the large ball-shaped blossoms well above the plant and make it a good cut flower variety. Height four feet. Price, each **25¢**

Vivian— Large and of beautiful colorings. Center of blossom dark magenta, the inside of the petal being much lighter cerise or Jacquemi- not. A large and excellent dahlia. Each **25c**

PAEONY-FLOWERED DAHLIAS

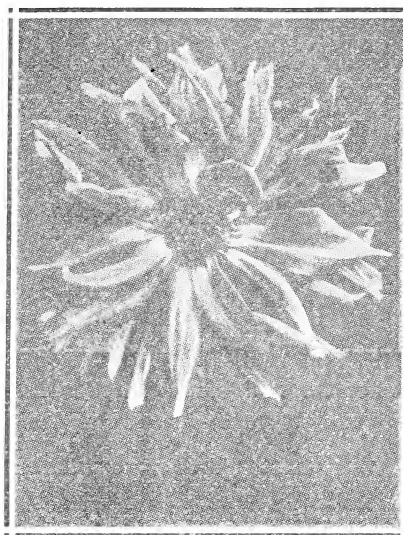
Paeony-Flowered Dahlias are of immense size and have two or more rows of petals, and are generally of a flat or twisted formation. They always show a yellow center.

Admiration— Pale orange ground, heavily overlaid rosy carmine. Large flowers. Plant grows quite tall. Each. **50c**

Attraction— The blossoms are bold and large, but not coarse. A distinct and charming character is obtained without stiffness or formality. The color is bright rose pink, and the stems are long and straight; height 4 feet. Price **75¢**

Berch van Heemstede— A pure yellow with rich golden sheen. The flowers are very large and fluffy. A free-blooming variety and first class in every respect. Height is about 4 feet. Price **25¢**

Cream King— This is usually classed a paeony, but with us a very large percentage of the blooms come perfect decorative. The color is as the name indicates, a soft cream. It is of immense size, blooms freely, and is supported by the best of stems **75c**



GEISHA

Frau Holtzendorf—

pleasing color and free-blooming qualities of this variety make it one of the best dahlias. Each.....

25c

Frau Scheiff— One of the most admired of the newer decoratives. The color is a bright, lively chamois with a faint suggestion of orange suffusion. Petal arrangement is quite distinct, often showing the coppery orange of the reverse by their peculiar twisting. Price

50c

Glory of Nijkerk— Extra large flowers of a beautiful cerise shade of purple violet; a wonder; attractive, deep spreading flower; fine stems and beautiful cut foliage. A recent introduction. Price

50c

Insulinde— Beautiful autumnal coloring, distinct formation of its flowers that are borne on rigid, stiff stems and held in horizontal position like a Zinnia, aster or chrysanthemum, different from any other dahlia. These flowers are large, 7 to 8 inches in diameter, with just sufficient broad, long curled and twisted petals to form a perfect and graceful flower of a beautiful golden ochre, with same-red suffusion, which deepens towards the center. Each. \$2.00

Elsa—

One of the best white dahlias in the paeony class. The large flowers on good stems show the yellow center surrounded with long waving petals of glistening white. An ideal white paeony flowered dahlia. Price, each

50c

Geisha—

The most striking color combination, golden yellow, changing to bright scarlet at the center of the petal and back to gold at the tip. The flowers are very large and showy, and are borne well up on good stems. This is the most popular paeony-flowered dahlia grown. Price, each

75c

Large rose pink blossoms on a good stem; flowers always come full. The

Miss Helen Jefferay— One of our newer dahlias that is proving to be a popular paeony of fiery red that will not fade. The plant grows very tall and the flame-colored blossoms are held high in the air. One of our most popular sellers. Price, each..... **25c**

Meyerbeer— A dahlia where the demand is always greater than the supply. Everybody who sees it wants it. It is an immense bloom of a fascinating purple and grows on rigid stems. No garden or exhibition table is a success without it. The formation is unexcelled, and it blooms freely all season. The best of the famous French peonies **75c**

Mme. Coissard— A pure cerise shading to white at the center. Late in the season it is shaded white and cerise, but is always a beautiful blossom. As it is a dwarf grower, and a profuse bloomer; it makes a charming bedding variety **50c**

Mrs. Chas. I. Seybold— A deep rose pink, edged with white; very attractive. It blooms most abundantly and continuously, has long stems and is splendid for cut flowers. The habit of the plant is free and branching, with heavy dark green glossy leaves, showing its great vigor and hardy constitution. Each **25c**

Mrs. Jessie L. Seal— The largest flower of its coloring, which is a magnificent old rose with golden shadings. The stem is particularly long and the blossom is borne well above the foliage. An all around good dahlia. Each **\$1.00**

Mrs. Wm. Kerr— The flowers are very large, of beautiful, twisted, irregular formation and a most exquisite coloring: rich cream, suffused pink, and overlaid bright carmine; the blending of shades and tints is very pleasing and attractive. The plant is strong and vigorous, growing to the height of about five feet. An early and free bloomer. Price, each **50c**

Leo XIII— A good deep yellow flower, free blooming on a strong plant. Stems good and formation of flower is perfect. Each... **25c**

Sherlock Holmes— Large size flowers of good form and type; in color a rich mauve. Each **25c**

Verna Thomson— White, heavily clouded violet. An immense new paeony of great beauty. The vigorous plants **25c**

Yellow Giant— A large, pure yellow on long stems. Splendid keeper for cut flowers. Each **50c**

HOW TO RAISE THE BEST DAHLIAS

PREPARATION OF THE SOIL—Spade the soil 15 or 20 inches deep, working in about one peck of well-rotted stable manure for each plant. Prepare the ground at least one week before planting time, so that it may be well settled.

PLANTING—We find for this region May 1st to 15th is the best time to plant. The roots should not be placed in the ground until about two weeks before the last frosts come for fear the plants will be through the ground and get nipped the late cold nights. Dig a hole in the soil that has been previously prepared, about six inches deep, in which lay the tuber flat with the eye up. Cover with about four inches of soil, packing it well around the bulb, and as the sprout appears keep pulling the earth around it until the root is covered with six inches of soil. Dahlias should be planted two feet apart in rows that should not be closer together than three feet. Run the rows north and south if possible.

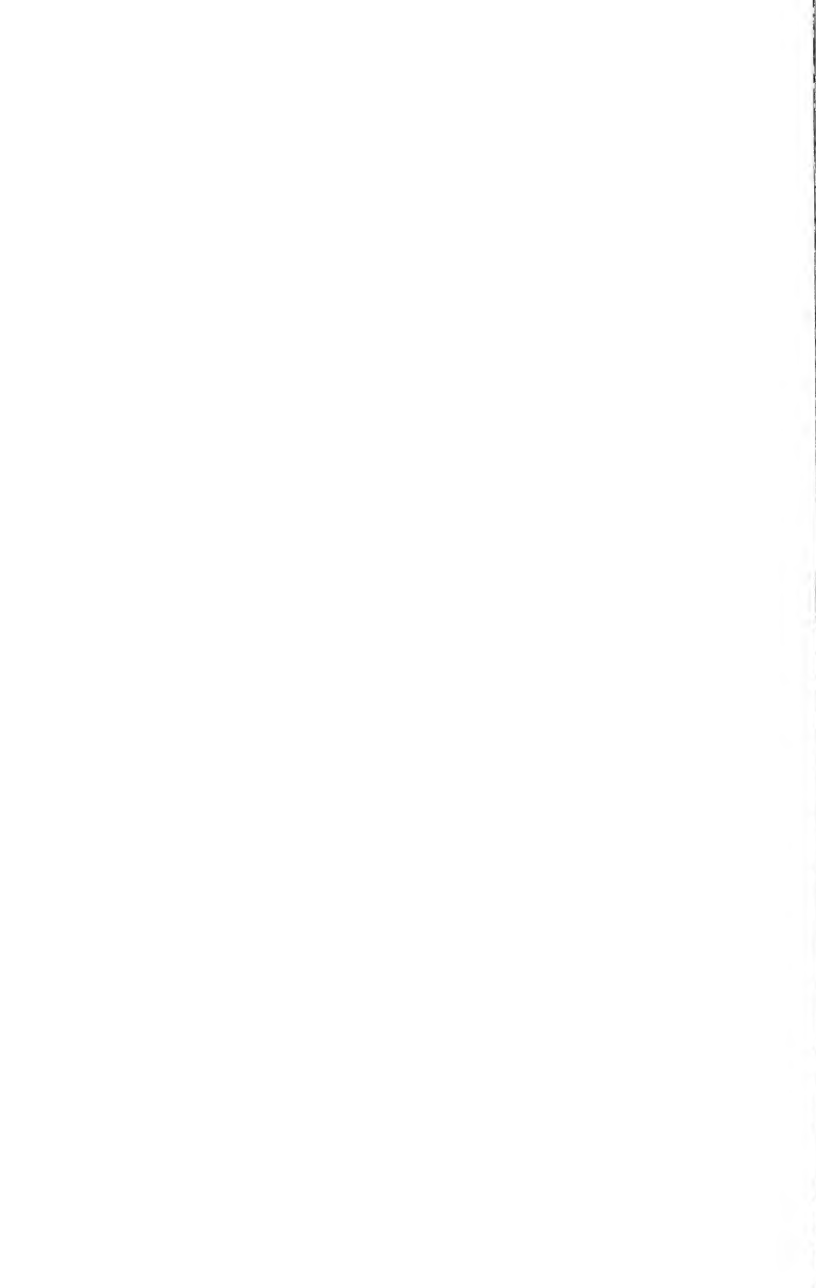
CULTIVATION—If dahlias are grown by irrigation they should be hoed after each watering and before the ground becomes hard or crusted. The ground should be well and deeply worked until the new bulbs begin to form, after which a frequent stirring of the top soil is sufficient. When the plants reach such size as to make hoeing difficult a mulch of straw, lawn clippings, or manure will be beneficial.

WATERING—In dry weather see that the plants get a good soaking once a week, and give sufficient water to wet the soil to the ends of the roots. Do not water often but water well. Too much water makes a brittle plant. Do not water dahlias until the sprouts show above the ground, as water, when applied before the fibrous roots have commenced growth, sometimes rots the bulb. This is especially true when the ground is cold and the season late.

THINNING—Never let more than one stalk develop from each bulb. Let no side branches grow within twelve inches from the ground, and the result will be one good strong and straight plant of good height. Stake the plants securely with two four-foot stakes and tie with muslin strips or some other soft material that will not cut or hurt the stalks.

DISBUDDING—To secure the best flowers disbudding is necessary. This is done by pinching out two of every three buds. Buds appear in trios, and each of the outer ones should be removed, leaving only the center or axial bud to develop. Never let faded or imperfect flowers remain on the plant, as it takes its strength for no purpose.

BLOSSOMS—To secure the best flowers for house decorations, they should be picked in the early morning before the sun strikes them.



KEEPING CUT FLOWERS—(By Richard Vincent, Jr., President of the American Dahlia Society.) The question is often asked by amateur gardeners: "Why did my dahlia flowers wilt so badly and refuse to revive? I set them in a vase of water as soon as they are cut." Cut the flowers any time of day and if they wilt a little, so much the better. Set them in a deep dish so they will be in water up to their necks. Keep them out of drafts and when they revive they will last for days. Change the water every day, at the same time cutting off a small portion of the ends of the stems. Flowers purchased of florists have wilted and been revived, so they will not require plunging. The advice is commonly given to cut the flowers early in the day while the dew is still on them. I believe this is of no importance. I grow great quantities of dahlias, and our cutters cut the flowers all day. Sometimes the flowers are very much wilted by the time they reach the packing shed, and these wilted flowers after we get them to recover, give the florists' customers better service than fresh cut flowers from the field. Another fad I do not believe in is putting a chemical in the water to keep the flowers fresh. At a dahlia exhibition some years ago I selected a badly wilted dahlia in the presence of a number of spectators, and submerged the stem in cold water for a few moments, then cutting off the end of the stem, returned it to its vase. In a few moments it appeared as fresh as when first cut.

CARE OF ROOTS IN WINTER—After the frost has killed the tops, the roots can be dug and placed in the basement. It is best to wait a few days after the tops have been entirely killed before cutting them close to the ground. An old saw is a very convenient tool for this work, and it does not leave a broken or split stalk as does a knife. After the tops have been removed the clumps may be dug at any time before the ground freezes, but as an early hard freeze sometimes comes unexpectedly it is best to get them packed away as soon as possible. Use a spading fork in loosening the clump by carefully working around the edge at least 10 inches from the stalk. Gently pry up from either side until the long roots are loosened, then lift the bulbs from the ground by using the fork as a lever with the right hand and lifting up on the stalk with the left. In this manner the whole clump and attached soil should come up and not a bulb should be spoiled. If plenty of storage room is available it would be better to leave all the soil on the roots as it is the very best protection for the neck of the bulb, which if broken either spoils the tuber entirely or weakens it until it is of little value. It is very important that the roots should be placed upside down as this permits all the sap to run out of the stalk and not settle in the base to cause rot which might extend down to the crown of the clump. Dahlias dug and stored in this manner should keep in the best condition and when dividing time comes in the spring they should be plump and full of life. In dividing the clumps be sure and get a portion of the crown or stalk with each tuber as the bud is located beyond the neck of the root and this is absolutely necessary to secure a plant.



23

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